

## Message Text

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20

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 IO-11

/105 W

----- 016012

R 181545Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3746

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP, SA

SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF WORLDWIDE POPULATION GROWTH FOR  
UNITED STATES SECURITY AND OVERSEAS INTERESTS

REF: STATE 301427

SUMMARY: SAUDI ARABIA HAS NO POPULATION POLICY IN  
THE SENSE THE TERM IS USED IN REFTEL. NATIONAL  
POLICY IS, IF ANYTHING, TO ENCOURAGE AS RAPID  
AS POSSIBLE INCREASE IN TOTAL SAUDI POPULATION.  
END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ARE SUBMITTED BELOW:

(A) SAUDI ARABIA HAS NO RPT NO CONCERTED  
POPULATION POLICY, AS WE KNOW IT. IN FACT,  
THE SAUDI POPULATION IS ONLY AROUND 4 MILLION  
(BASED ON UNRELEASED CENSUS DATA FROM NOVEMBER,  
1974). SOME 2 MILLION FOREIGN WORKERS (AND  
THEIR FAMILIES) ARE ALSO PRESENT IN THE KINGDOM.

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AT THE SAME TIME, THE SAUDI FIVE YEAR PLAN CALLS

FOR AMBITIOUS PROJECTS WHICH WILL REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 500,000 NEW WORKERS BEFORE 1980. FACED ALSO WITH THE REALITY THAT THE COMBINED POPULATIONS OF POORER SURROUNDING ARAB STATES VASTLY OUTNUMBER SAUDI ARABIA, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO ENCOURAGE A MORE RAPID BIRTH RATE. SAUDI ARABIA IS ALSO THE DEFENDER OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH AND VALUES THAT POSTURE. THE MOSLEM RELIGION MAY NOT, IN STRICT READING, ACTUALLY PROHIBIT ANY FORM OF BIRTH CONTROL BUT THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DOMINANT WAHABI SECT IN SAUDI ARABIA CLEARLY OPPOSES BIRTH CONTROL. BIRTH CONTROL PILLS ARE ON THE LIST OF PROHIBITED IMPORTS. THIS PROHIBITION IS NOT LIKELY TO BE RESCINDED.

(B) NOT APPLICABLE. NO PROGRAM EXISTS. NO U.S. AID IS RECEIVED. (C) SAUDI ARABIA'S SUDDEN AFFLUENCE HAS LED TO A SURGE IN IMPORTS, WHICH HAS INUNDATED ITS PORTS, AND IS RAPIDLY OVERWHELMING EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE. NEVERTHELESS, POPULATION GROWTH CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE INCREASE IN TOTAL DEMAND. THE KINGDOM HAS SUFFICIENT WEALTH TO MEET ADEQUATE WELFARE AND SOCIAL CARE RESPONSIBILITIES. NO CONSTRAINTS, BEYOND MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY AND MINIMIZING WASTE, EXIST AS FAR AS DOMESTIC SAVINGS, AND INVESTMENT OR BALANCE OF PPYMENTS ARE CONCERNED. IN THIS CASE, THE MARGINAL PROPENSITY TO SAVE IS IN NO WAY RELATED TO THE MARGINAL PROPENSITY TO CONSUME. OIL REVENUE SIMPLY OVERWHELMS EVERY OTHER CONSIDERATION. (D) ALTHOUGH A GOOD DEAL OF CHRONIC DISGUISED UNEMPLOYMENT EXISTS--DUE TO EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND BASIC ATTITUDES--ACTUAL UNEMPLOYMENT IS INSIGNIFICANT. HERE AGAIN, THE COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE BASIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC NECESSITIES IS STRAINED NOT BY RAPID POPULATION GROWTH, BUT BY SUDDEN INCREASE IN TOTAL DEMAND AND RAPID INFLUX OF FOREIGN ELEMENTS.

(E) SAME AS (D).

(F) AS MENTIONED ABOVE, THE SAUDI PERCEPTION  
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OF ITS GEOPOLITICAL POSITION IS THAT THEY MUST ENCOURAGE RAPID GROWTH OF THE POPULATION. (G) SAUDI ARABIA IS NOT LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN POPULATION PROGRAMS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. EMBASSY WILL DISCUSS POPULATION PRESSURES WITH THE SAUDIS. WE WILL POINT OUT THE SAUDI INTEREST IN CONTRIBUTING TO INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS IN OTHER

COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, SAUDIS ARE LIKELY TO ACCORD  
POPULATION CONTROL A LOW PRIORITY IN NATIONAL  
SCALE OF VALUES.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FAMILY PLANNING, POLICIES, POPULATION GROWTH RATE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION OES  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 301427  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUN 2004  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IMPLICATIONS OF WORLDWIDE POPULATION GROWTH FOR UNITED STATES SECURITY AND OVERSEAS INTERESTS  
**TAGS:** SPOP, PFOR, SA, US, XX  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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